

SUFFRAGISTS DENY CAUSE IS BACKSLIDING IN COLORADO

No Diminution of Interest in the Ballot on the Part of Women There or Elsewhere, Say Leaders

By ROSE YOUNG.

THERE are two or three perennial in the garden of anti-suffrage platitudes that the woman who is working for the vote watches with more or less awe. They are so hardy, so ready to bloom again, so entirely self-propagating. The light of hope flared in the eyes of the new campaigner as she discovered one of them and slashes the perennial with the ground. The old campaigner only smiles and says:

"What, again? Bring me Volume 72 of Part I.X of 'Stock Objections to Suffrage Answered.' We beheaded that flower of the gorse in 1848. This is the sixty-seventh annual resuscitation. Turn to page 1752."

Turning to page 1752 you read, perhaps, that "woman suffrage is part of a great principle, the democratic principle of self-government. As such it cannot be assailed on the ground of expediency. It cannot be sidetracked by the private conclusions of individuals who don't care for the way it works. It takes its place as a tenet in the fundamental concept of democracy and if you don't like it you don't like and you don't understand democracy."

All of which seems pertinent to the situation evoked by the report from Denver on Wednesday that Mrs. Martha J. Cranmer, a woman voter and sometime officeholder, had said: "It is evident that suffrage is a failure. I am disgusted. I shall never vote again. The trouble is that most of the women have become disgusted and quit voting. Only a few more elections in Denver and all the women in Denver will have quit voting. Women have shown that they can't stand together. They have divided into factions and instead of going down the line for a good cause they spend their time 'knifing' one another."

As a matter of fact Mrs. Cranmer didn't say it. George Creel, who was for years the running mate of Ben H. Lindsey in the fight for reform in Colorado, at once wired Judge Lindsey for an explanation for the Empire State campaign committee. The answer received was immediate and fairly strong. Mrs. Cranmer positively denied the interview attributed to her. Moreover, Denver women took proportionate interest in an election at which only two out of five commissioners were to be voted for.

Fortunately for the suffrage cause, a woman is at the head of the election commission. Her name is Ellis Meredith Clements. She counted the vote in eight precincts in Denver and there and anywhere in the city. She telephoned Judge Lindsey that in these eight precincts 1,119 men voted and

806 women. Keeping calmly in mind that there are of voting age 127,310 to 100 women in Denver it would seem that there was nothing in this showing on which to base the wholesale deduction that woman suffrage is a failure.

Again, there was more excuse in the weather conditions than showed on the face of the first telegraphic advices. It was quite the worst weather in years. An almost unprecedented snowstorm greeted all eyes.

But suppose none of all this was true and suppose Mrs. Cranmer did say that woman suffrage was a failure. What of it? It would be one woman's opinion. Many a man relieves his sense of depression when things don't go right as he sees right by expressing the opinion that social and political institutions and the world are failures. What he says is not received with deadly seriousness as a reliable forecast of the end of hope and faith. Institutions and the world continue at the old state.

Ministers, their nerves frayed by overlong contemplation of what they see as the sins of their congregations, rise up in their pulpits and denounce people en masse. Yet it takes more than a preacher's sermon to convince the public that Christianity is a failure. Social reformers, political reformers, teachers, all break out into periodic wails of woe because the millennium comes so slowly. Yet faith that we shall somehow make harbor persists. Hope persists. The ideal persists.

There is a lot of hope and faith in local suffrage circles. New York suffragists keep their eyes on the ideal. It takes more than the opinion of one woman voter to blur the issue in New York.

"If you are going to be a suffragist lay in a big supply of patience," said Mary Garrett Hay, city chairman of the Woman Suffrage party. "When a story like this Cranmer story comes over the wires the first thing to do is to wait. It sometimes seems to me that the American public makes up its mind too quickly. It doesn't wait for the verdict."

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Mary Garrett Hay.

Marie Jenney Howe.

Mrs. Norman de R. Whitehouse.

"I don't agree that there is cause for discouragement in Colorado because the women didn't brave the snowstorm to get to the polls, and I don't agree that even if they did, even if they wouldn't vote at all, their action could be taken as an argument that the franchise should be kept from the women of other States. To get such an argument at its full value as a contribution to the literature of logic, state it in terms of man suffrage."

"Eighty-four per cent. of the men of New York have been known to stay away from the polls at an election which involved as important a matter as the State's Constitution. Ergo, the men should be disfranchised."

You will be able to prove that woman suffrage is a failure when you are able to prove that democracy is a failure, and no sooner."

Mrs. Norman de R. Whitehouse, chairman of the publicity council of the Empire State campaign committee, said it would take a great deal more than such an interview as was attributed to Mrs. Cranmer to convince her that woman suffrage was a failure.

"Why, you might as well say baseball is a failure because the Giants lost on Saturday day," Mrs. Whitehouse, it is to be remembered, has just completed a successful campaign to fuse baseball and suffrage interests, and her thought still lingers on the ground and finds expression in a fused suffrage and baseball terminology. "I dare say Mr. McGraw felt that baseball was a painted toy when the score kept on not piling up for

his voters on Tuesday. But whatever his feelings, the Giants made a home run next day. An individual's conviction is not proof conclusive on which to settle the larger issues of life."

La Follette declared that it was hardly as logical to accept Mrs. Cranmer's alleged verdict on woman suffrage as it would be to accept Mother Jones's verdict on suffrage of any and all kinds.

California, through similar action by its Senate, has resolved "that the adoption of woman suffrage by California is one of the important factors contributing to the marked political, social and industrial advancement made by our people in recent years, and that any disparagement of the cause of woman suffrage attempted elsewhere on the ground that woman suffrage is not satisfactory to this State has no basis in fact, and is significantly disapproved by the acknowledged intelligence and determination shown by women voters in the settling of our great political and industrial problems at the polls."

Kansas has gone on record to the same purpose, and if you would like to know what the Governors of suffrage States think of woman suffrage it is easily summarized as follows:

point the moral and adorn this tale. Colorado, for instance, has declared officially through its Senate that "experience has demonstrated that woman suffrage is not only a just recognition of the rights of all before the law, but has proved in all respects materially helpful to good government among the people, and to a noticeable degree has incited a higher respect for the majesty and supremacy of the law."

Gov. Haines of Idaho: "A large number of women not only vote, but vote intelligently, and their participation in no sense disqualifies them for their household or other duties."

Gov. Johnson of California: "Since its adoption in October, 1911, equal suffrage has been put to the most thorough and severe test. . . . Were it again to be submitted, the vote in its favor would be overwhelming."

Gov. Carlson of Colorado: "Woman suffrage has been an unqualified victory over weak and unfair government."

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suffrage in Kansas has made it easier to elect men of good moral character to office and harder to foist a man of shady reputation on the people."

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Mayor on April 6, 1915. Their increasing representation of the privilege of voting is here shown:

Municipal primaries, February, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 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